International Conference on West Asia

432. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATUR VEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the International Conference on West Asia is likely to be held; and

(b) what is Government's reaction to the refusal by Israel to accept P.L.O. delegation to the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A US-Soviet sponsored Middle East peace conference is tentatively scheduled to be convened in early October.

(b) The PLO is recognised by the Palestinian people as their sole legitimate representative. In our view it should not be excluded from any meaningful and viable Middle East peace process.

Kashmir Issue

433. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS.

SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in Hindustan Times, dated the 13th August, 1991 that 20th Islamic Conference held in first week of August, 1991 in Istanbul fully supported Pakistani line and called for a settlement on the basis of right of self-determination; if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that war hysteria is being worked up in Pakistan and the out-going Chief of Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg had been openly talking of the possibility of a war with India;

(c) whettwr it is also a fact that US Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Robert Oakley declared that US did not accept India's claim on Kashmir ; and also sounded a note of warning that New Delhi might wage a war on Islamabad on the Kashmir issue; and

(d) whether the matter was taken up with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan during his recent visit to India, if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The OIS has no *locus standi* in the Kashmir issue and there is no scope for any third party involvement.

(b) The former Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan "had, from time to time, made statements, suggesting, *inter alia,* that India might start a conflict with Pakistan.

(c) In a speech at the Press Institute of Pakistan on I0th August, 1991, the US Ambassador stated that the US Gov ernment considers Jammu and Kashmir to be disputed. The US Ambassador lias clarified that he had only referred to ten sions prevailing in India-Pakistan rela tions last year and had not suggested t'hat an attack by India on Pakistan was imminent.

(d) Government have repeatedly em phasised to Pakistan that the current ten sions in India-Pakistan relations have been caused by Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion in fhe Indian States of Punjab and J&K, its concerted campaign to internationalise the Kashmir issue and its hostile propaganda directed against India in violation of the Simla Agree ment and universally accepted norms of conducting inter-state relations. Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited India from 18-21 August, 1991 and conveyed the desire Of the Govern ment of Pakistan to resolve all bilateral problems through a constructive dialogue. Government believe that the situation on ground will provide the real test of Pakis tan's intentions.